

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please add new paragraphs 74a, 74b, 74c, and 74d after paragraph 74 and before paragraph 75. amend paragraphs 81 and 121 of the specification. A complete copy of those paragraphs including marked-up language to show the changes made in those paragraphs in this Amendment appears below.

[0074a] FIG. 40a is a front plan view of the alternative embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Fig. the pile fibers 40, showing perforations as the weakened areas.

[0074b] FIG. 40b is a front plan view of the alternative embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Fig. the pile fibers 40, showing microperforations as the weakened areas.

[0074c] FIG. 40c is a front plan view of the alternative embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Fig. the pile fibers 40, showing scores as the weakened areas.

[0074d] FIG. 40d is a front plan view of the alternative embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Fig. the pile fibers 40, showing multiple laminate materials which

include a layer having an area of material or materials which are specifically designed to be easily torn as the weakened areas.

[0081] Referring to Figure 3, the film 10 is folded over, as shown, to form the fold structure 11 and a zipper assembly 20 is inserted. Weakened areas 12 are preferably positioned below the zipper structure 20a so that when fold structure or hood 11 is removed the zipper structure 20a is exposed sufficiently above the resulting fin structures 19 18 to allow the user access to the zipper structure 20a. Zipper skirts 16 are shown bonded to the film 10. However, it is presently believed preferable, prior to insertion of the zipper assembly 20, that the uncut ends 23 (see Figure 5) of each zipper assembly 20 be punched out or cut to form a radiused notch 22a, as shown in Figure 7. The cut zipper assembly ends 22 are sealed together (the sealed mass 22b of Figure 7) which will later function to retain the contents of the bag 100 such as food.

[0121] Referring now to FIGS. 40, 40a, 41 and 41a, an alternate embodiment of the present invention may be seen. The film 10 is folded over, as shown, to form the fold structure 11, and a zipper assembly 20 is positioned over the fold structure 11. Weakened areas 12 are preferably positioned below the zipper structure 20a, so that when the zipper structure 20a is in the open position the fold structure 11 and its weakened areas 12 are exposed to allow the user access to the fold structure 11. The weakened

areas 12 may include structures such as perforations 12b (shown in Fig. 40b), microperforations 12c (shown in Fig. 40c), scores 12d (shown in Fig. 40d), and multiple laminate materials which include a layer having an area 12e of material or materials

10 which are specifically designed to be easily torn (shown in Fig. 40e). Seen particularly in FIG. 41, the overlaying zipper skirt 16, of the alternate embodiment may be viewed.

Zipper skirt 16 is usually comprised of two strips of pieces of plastic film or a one-piece unit of continuous film, and is seen to have its inside surfaces 17 sealed hermetically to the outside surfaces 35b, 36b of the film 10 at respective hermetic seals 40c, 40d. The

15 fold structure 11 is preferably designed to act as an imperforate hermetic barrier to protect the contents of bag 100. Tearing the fold structure 11 allows the user access to the contents and also provides visual evidence that the hermetic seal is broken. Seen particularly in FIGS. 40a and 41, the inside surfaces 35a, 36a of the parent film 10 may also be peelably sealed to one another, using a known releasable adhesive 51, to provide

20 a releasable hermetic or gas tight seal 50 therebetween. The seal 50 is located adjacent, preferably preferably just below, the weakened areas 12.